UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/808
26 August 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 26 AUGUST 1998 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué issued on 26 August 1998 by the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, containing the response of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the joint letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed to the members of the Security Council and as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Ramadan A. BARG
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Communiqué issued by the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

26 August 1998

The General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation has read the joint letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations concerning the two Governments' consent to the trial in a neutral third country of the two individuals suspected of involvement in the explosion of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie. In this connection, the Committee would like to recall the human and material losses and the sufferings endured by the Libyan people, for no valid reason, as a result of the unfair sanctions imposed on it for seven years now because of the refusal to accept positive initiatives like this one, which were proposed by the Great Jamahiriya in an attempt to find a peaceful solution that would satisfy all the parties and guarantee the suspects a fair and impartial trial and which were welcomed and supported by international and regional organizations and by countries friendly to Libya, to whom we express our gratitude for their solidarity with the Libyan people and for their efforts to arrive at this solution which guarantees justice for the suspects and for the victims' families. The 27 February 1998 judgment of the International Court of Justice also confirmed the validity of the Great Jamahiriya's positions and the inadmissibility of sanctions. The Committee regrets that so many years had to pass before this solution, supported by every international organization, was finally accepted, just as it regrets the scant regard shown for the wishes of the international community and of the International Court of Justice.

In stating its acceptance of this evolution in the position of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America, an evolution which it has demanded constantly, the General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation emphasizes the need to end the sanctions imposed under Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993).

The General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation hopes that the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America seriously want to finally settle this issue, and to do so honestly and not out of necessity. The whole world can be sure of this if the procedure is free of any conditions by which the United Kingdom and United States Governments might obstruct the trial's progress.

The General People's Committee for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation wishes to reiterate that it will give positive consideration to the proposed measure and accord it all due importance and care.